has adopted a multi-pronged approach, which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management to check infiltration/exfiltration, pro-active action against terrorists within J&K, gearing up the intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional frame work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Group of UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces, action as per law against over ground supporters of the terrorists and continued review and refining of tactics and strategies to meet the changing contours of cross-border terrorism.

Steps are being taken to flush out terrorist and curb their activities through measures including close vigil on border, establishment of naka parties in depth or deeper areas to check infiltration/ exfiltration, pickets, intensive patrolling etc.

In addition, Government has used every opportunity to apprise the International Community including the United States, of Paskistan's support to and sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Following the terrorist fidayeen attack on 1st October 2001 on J&K assembly building in Srinagar, the Prime Minister had conveyed to the United States and other friendly countries, the sense of anguish felt by the people of India at this terrorist attack.

Preparedness against acts of terrorism

342. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some measures to increase its degree of preparedness against acts of terrorism and is acquiring greater expertise in disaster management in the aftermath of September 11, terrorist strikes in the United States; and

(b) if so, what are those measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO:) (a) and (b) Central Government has been regulalry sensitizing the States

about the threat perceptions regarding activities of militant and terrorist groups in the country.

A Conference of Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police was convened on 5th October, 2001 followed by a Conference of Chief Minister on 17th November, 2001 to sensitise them to threat perceptions and to ensure a coordinated response to internal security issues.

In the wake of the 11th September attacks in USA, the State Government/Union Territories have been advised to strengthen security around the vital installations. Review of VVIP security has been undertaken. Security of airports, aircraft etc. has been strengthened. The State Governments have been requested to gear up collection of intelligence with regard to sabotage, subversive activities and attempts to disturb communal harmony. The State Governments/UTs have also been requested to keep contingency plans in readiness to deal with any eventuality.

Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 has been promulgated under which 23 organisations are listed as Terrorist Organisaitons.

Use of Biological Weapons

343. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of biological agents by terrorists has now become a reality, though its development and manufacture is banned under the Biological Warfare Convention (1972) and the earlier Geneva Protocol of 1925; and

(b) if so, what action does Government recommend to prevent this new type of threat to our society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO:) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government has issued a detailed circular to all States and